



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update** **June 2006**

### **Next HCDOP meeting**

- *When/where*
  - The next meeting will be held at the Belfair Library on July 10 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
  - USGS reports (Gary Turney)
  - Ecology's Hood Canal video (Markus Von Prause and Dave Garland)

### **Scientific Studies**

- *Project update*
  - HB 1896 – DNR is continuing to work with WDFW and the Makah Tribe on the elements of House Bill 1896 (geoduck studies in Hood Canal). The two final elements are the establishment of the index stations and shell analysis (age profile and oxidation study). Additional geoduck were collected from the Tahuya tract in May and will be included in the shell analysis study. (D.Toba, DNR)
  - Invasive Tunicate – DNR is working in conjunction with the Skokomish Tribe on a survey of the lower Hood Canal for the presence of the invasive tunicate (*Ciona savignyi*). (D.Toba, DNR)
  - Molluscan Study – HCSEG is still in the process of modifying the scope of work for the project as recommended by the scientist panel. (D. Toba, DNR)
  - An updated training session in the use of emergency response kits for fish preservation methods was provided by Martin Chen (WDFW) and Marcia House (NWIFC). The workshop was held at the Eels Springs Hatchery on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and was attended by HCDOP emergency response personnel from Mason Co. Department of Health, Skokomish Tribe, and HCSEG. Martin and Marcia provided 'mini' kits that could more easily be maintained and transported in vehicles and boats. (D.Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - A UW/PRISM cruise aboard the R/V Thomas G. Thompson sailed the waters of greater Puget Sound (including Hood Canal) from June 26<sup>th</sup>- June 29<sup>th</sup>. There were 40 stations sampled for hydrography, nutrients, chlorophyll and oxygen, and a smaller subset for phytoplankton and bacterial production and speciation. Members from UW-APL, UW Oceanography, UW-SAFS, WADOE, and HCSEG collected samples relevant to their respective project needs. (Note: DO concentrations below 2 mg/L were observed at the three southern-most PRISM stations (Potlatch and north). At Potlatch, values below 2 mg/L were observed from 30 m to the seabed. (J. Newton, UW APL)
  - The fourth ORCA was deployed on June 29<sup>th</sup> from the R/V Thomas G. Thompson. It is located north of the Hamma Hamma River and has been placed in

- the eastern third of the canal. An underwater current profiler will eventually be placed in the western third of the canal. The two moorings will provide for some comparative and independent data sets. (J. Newton, UW; D. Hannafious, HCSEG)
- A doublet of current meters located near the Hoodsport ORCA will be retrieved the first week of July for data recovery and then redeployed. (J. Newton, UW; D. Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Contract language is being developed for the mapping survey of the Union quad map which encompasses a lower segment of Hood Canal from the middle of Anna's Bay and east beyond Sister's Point and includes the terrestrial landscape along the south shore of that region inclusive of the Webb Hill Biosolid facility. (D. Hannafious, HCSEG)

### **Corrective Actions**

- *Project update*
  - Mason CD's contract with PSAT to focus on small farm education is under way. The workshops and farm planning will be concentrated in areas of high concern, such as the Tahuya and lower Union rivers. A 2004 survey of the lower Union River farms show at least 43 horses close to the river. Ten properties were identified as medium or high priority in their need to implement BMPs. An earlier farm inventory from 1995 indicated that in the lower Hood Canal watershed there were over 128 agricultural properties with over 434 livestock animals, including 300 horses and cows. Seventeen of the properties ranked as medium to high priority, necessitating farm plans. In several cases, livestock had direct access to streams. These numbers have undoubtedly increased over the past ten years. (Knackstedt, PSAT)
  - Prepared for and helped deliver GMAP on Hood Canal to PSAT's Management Team, led by Brad. Worked with staff, both internally and on the Interagency HC team to incorporate the state's and EPA's concerns for HC projects funded in 2006-2007 (D.Fagergren, A.Criss, S. Glasoe, T.Hull, M.Knackstedt, PSAT)
  - Convened internal HC monthly meeting and debriefed on HC GMAP process. (D.Fagergren, A. Criss, S.Glasoe, T.Hull, M.Knackstedt, PSAT)
  - Met with EPA staff (S. Skadowsky, E. Lai, and M. Rylko) on a proposed "framework document" for organizing thinking and managing expectations and outcomes for funded projects in Hood Canal (D.Fagergren, A. Criss, PSAT)
  - Met with Emmett Dobey on strategies for Hood Canal sewerage in the Skokomish to Hoodsport corridor; met the last week of the month with Skokomish Tribal Council members and staff, the PUD (#3), and Mason County Commissioners and key staff to discuss next steps on sewerage plans to be finalized for the Skok to Hoodsport corridor. (D.Fagergren, S.Glasoe, PSAT)
  - Hoodsport-Skokomish Wastewater Alternatives Analysis. The study is nearly completed and will soon be available. On June 28 leaders from Mason County, Skokomish Tribe and Mason PUD #1 met to discuss issues and next steps with wastewater projects in the study area, and are next scheduled to meet again on August 2. Staff and consultants to the county are doing additional work to lay the necessary groundwork for the meetings and projects. (S. Glasoe, PSAT)

- Skokomish Anaerobic Digester: Mason Conservation District issued an RFP, reviewed proposals and interviewed representatives from two companies to conduct an economic analysis and 30-percent design for a community anaerobic digester facility to process manure, salmon carcasses, and possibly food wastes and other appropriate feedstocks. The CD expects to select a contractor in July and the work should begin soon after. (S.Glasoe, PSAT)
- Talked to Brian McGinnis of Alderbrook on status of early action projects and ideas for potential cluster systems or stand-alone systems similar to Alderbrook's for reducing nitrogen (from onsite sewage systems).(D.Fagergren, PSAT)
- Prepared opening remarks for the upcoming (July 22) Lower Hood Canal Coalition's "Clean Water Festival" (D.Fagergren, PSAT)
- Attended and participated in the HCCC's retreat at Alderbrook. Of note, the list of projects forwarded from the HCCC staff and the PSAT staff, was approved with a few technical amendments (including correction for the deletion of the Seabeck project for \$100 K). The project list will now be sent back to the PSAT for Brad's review and approval, and then forwarded to the IAC for their fiscal approval. (D.Fagergren, PSAT)
- Received drafts of the final report on the Skokomish Tribe's Salmon Compost project, and worked with Lalena A. and Keith D to finalize the first year's budget related to the project. (D.Fagergren, PSAT)

### **Outreach**

- *Public education and outreach updates*
  - The planning for the Lower Hood Canal Clean Water Festival on July 22 at the Theler Center in Belfair is complete. Publicity for the festival is underway. Web sites are carrying notices of the meeting. News media articles are being prepared for the week before the event. Handout announcements are being distributed and posters are being prepared for distribution by July 7. (Hager, LHCWC)
  - Dr. Josh London gave a presentation on June 22 at Alderbrook Spa and Resort on the foraging ecology and population dynamics of harbor seals in Hood Canal from 1998 to 2005. This presentation kicked off a new lecture series sponsored by the Washington Sea Grant Program called Sound Science, which highlights research by University of Washington faculty and staff benefiting Mason County. (Teri King, WA Sea Grant).
  - HCWEN met on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Kitsap SSWM annex. Agenda items included: Invasive Tunicate ID presentation from Mary Lou Mills, WDFW; update on the Lower Hood Canal Watershed education festival scheduled for July 22; program evaluation and the possibility of HCWEN helping to sponsor a REEF/ SeaDoc Society ID class for residents around the Canal in late summer/early fall. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - Shore Stewards and the Watershed Pledge provided an education booth for the two day "Shrimpfest" in Brinnon over Memorial Day. Lots of new members and interest, also passed out postcards for the newsletter. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hood Canal Youth Summit was on May 31<sup>st</sup> at Twanoh State Park. Funded by PSAT and hosted by Karen Lippys' Hood Canal Institute Students. Morning station presenters included: WSU Mason Extension, Mason

County Health, UW Sea Grant, Arline Fullerton of the Hood Canal Divers and HCSEG. About 120 youth from around the Canal attended the event. Elaine Grinnel an Elder from Jamestown S' Klallam tribe also attended.

- *Public outreach needs*
  - Emily Piper and Toni Droscher are looking for contacts and locations to help distribute the Hood Canal NEWS postcards. Please contact Toni Droscher for more information: [tdroscher@psat.wa.gov](mailto:tdroscher@psat.wa.gov)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
  - Annas Bay Shellfish Closure Update Meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm Mason Conservation District. Contact Seth Book at Mason Health (Piper, HCWEN)
  - Hood Canal Watershed Education Network June 22, 1-4pm Kitsap County SSWM Annex.
  - June 28 Watershed Webcast covered Social Marketing In Chesapeake Bay. You are invited to participate in an upcoming EPA Watershed Academy Webcast. EPA's monthly Webcasts offer free training and information for watershed practitioners around the globe. The Webcast on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> featured Charlie MacPherson with Tetra Tech, Inc. and Christopher Conner with the Chesapeake Bay Program. These widely renowned outreach specialists provided an overview of social marketing principles and then proceeded through the steps needed to make audiences aware of an issue, recognize audiences' underlying motivations, and encourage behavioral change. A case study presentation highlighted the key social marketing principles used to change behaviors in the Chesapeake. Each Webcast includes a Web-based slide presentation with a companion audio portion that can be accessed either by phone or by streaming audio broadcast. For more information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts>.

### **Communications**

- *Communications activities*
  - The summer issue of Hood Canal News was published on 6/27/06: [http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/hoodcanal\\_news/hc\\_news\\_online.htm](http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/hoodcanal_news/hc_news_online.htm)
  - Met with Dave Garland and Markus Von Prause of Ecy's NWRO on the video production they hope to release soon on Hood Canal and what citizens can do to help the low D.O. situation.(A.Criss, D.Fagergren, PSAT)
  - Drafted a couple of letters responding to constituent questions and concerns for Hood Canal (and the proposed NASCAR facility in south Kitsap/north Mason) (D.Fagergren, PSAT)

### *Media contacts or requests*

- Wayne Palsson was contacted on June 12 by Craig Welch of the Seattle PI. Welch requested an update on the condition of rockfish and marine populations in Hood Canal. Palsson briefed Welch on the results of WDFW's focus studies at Sund Rocks where rockfish have declined by 1/3 since the 2003 fish kill and about the general results of WDFW's bottom trawl surveys in Hood Canal. These trawl surveys reveal no major decline in other groundfish abundance over time but a general decrease in fish density from the entrance of Hood Canal to

the southern extremes where oxygen is limited. Palsson also noted observations in the depth distribution and mortality of some invertebrates such as octopus, sea stars and cucumbers but referred him to Bob Sizemore for more details. (Palsson, WDFW).

- Talked to reporter Craig Welch, about early action projects, and questions raised by USGS's reports recently released. (D.Fagergren, PSAT)

#### *Media coverage*

##### **Eating Well to Save the Sound**

Washington State Magazine

<http://washington-state-magazine.wsu.edu/stories/2006/May/eatingwell.html>

##### **No easy solutions to die-off at Hood Canal**

The Seattle Times

Amiotte, Fagergren, Newton and Richey quotes.

June 19, 2006

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003070478\\_hoodcanal19m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003070478_hoodcanal19m.html)

##### **KPLU Hood Canal news coverage**

A three-part series on Hood Canal began Monday, June 26, at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. This is available to download on KPLU's web site [www.kplu.org](http://www.kplu.org)